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14 October 2025

Whare Kaupapa Atawhai/
Conservation House 18
Manners Street Te Aro,
Wellington
6011
doc.govt.nz
Ref: OIAD-5660

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request to the Department of Conservation (DOC), received on 16 September 2025, in which you asked for a range of information related to ongoing predator control work on Rakiura.

We have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the OIA).

Your questions and our responses are listed below:

1. *Monitoring - full details of all monitoring undertaken to date and planned monitoring - to provide prior to meeting.*
2. *Explanations regarding monitoring data provided*

With regard to monitoring, as outlined within OIAD-5552 – monitoring intended to be undertaken has been outlined in the *Rakiura Notification Factsheet* and the *Update on the delivery of aerial predator control newsletter* provided to you previously.

Furthermore, within OIAD-5226, we outlined that DOC and Zero Invasive Predators (ZIP) have designed a result monitoring programme to measure the effectiveness of both the predator suppression work, and the '1080 to Zero' approach. This will enable the assessment of the impact both operations have on target species. It will also enable us to assess the effectiveness of deer repellent.

To date, DOC and ZIP have conducted monitoring of key species including pukunui (southern New Zealand dotterel), feral cats, rats, deer, and kiwi. Trail cameras have captured predator activity, including feral cats chasing native birds, and water sampling has been completed in two phases to assess 1080 presence in aquatic environments. Bait and carcass degradation monitoring is also underway to determine the appropriate stand-down period for public safety, currently estimated at eight months.

Any results of monitoring undertaken will be shared with the community, when they are complete.

3. *Details of lizard monitoring - to provide prior to meeting*

As outlined within OIAD-5226, Question 28 - Harlequin gecko, small eared skink, southern skink are being monitored throughout the operation. The results of this study will be made public when it is completed.

4. Details of water samples results - to provide prior to meeting

Water sampling results have been shared with you within OIAD-5625.

5. All maps in A3 of areas sown with non-toxic and toxic bait - to provide prior to meeting

I understand that the Rakiura Operations team have shared maps, showing where non-toxic and toxic bait has been sown, with you. These are again provided in Attachment One.

6. Copy of DOC permission for use of 1080 on conservation estate in Rakiura for your operations recent and future - to provide prior to meeting

DOC has previously provided you a copy of the Rakiura permission, within OIAD-5262. Please see Question 7 and the associated attachment.

7. Plans moving forward for deer repellent - to provide prior to meeting

8. The next phase of your poisoning plans?

With respect to future planning for Predator Free Rakiura and the use of deer repellent, DOC and ZIP are awaiting the outcomes of the initial operational phase—including the deer repellent trials—before determining subsequent steps.

9. Copies of all information / data / presentations provided to the Fishing Industry including dates - to provide prior to meeting

10. Full details of work being carried out in relation to the fisheries - to provide prior to meeting

ZIP, on behalf of a collaborative project team including DOC, Ministry of Primary Industries and representatives from the wild catch and marine farming industries, has engaged Cawthron Institute to undertake scientific trials involving 1080 in the marine environment. This research is still in its initial phase. DOC has not shared information/data/presentations of this work with the Fishing industry. Cawthron Institute holds any preliminary information on this and the results will be made public once completed.

11. Biosecurity meeting was meant to be held in August - what is happening

Predator Free 2050 Limited held a contract with the Centre of Excellence for Biosecurity Risk Analysis, based at University of Melbourne (CEBRA). The purpose of the contract was to model biosecurity risk pathways. The last CEBRA workshop was on 29 August in Invercargill.

The purpose of the workshop was to gather data from people who work in the shipping, transport and biosecurity sectors. The data gathered is intended to complement and add context to existing field data already collated.

12. Copy 2025/ 2026 dotterel workplan - to provide prior to meeting

As part of OIAD-4964 Part B, DOC provided dotterel plans up to and including the 2022/2023 operational plan, which remains the most current version. This plan is still in use and is scheduled for review in the coming months.

13. When will the community expect a public meeting

The next public meeting is being scheduled and you will be notified of that in the near future.

14. Cost of work undertaken to date -to provide prior to meeting

We interpret this question to be in relation to the total cost of the Pukunui Operation to date.

The total spend on the Pukunui operation to date is \$2,482,195. This figure includes both the ZIP-led operational activities and DOC-led monitoring efforts. Please note that additional monitoring costs are anticipated.

You are entitled to seek an investigation and review of my decision by writing to an Ombudsman as provided by section 28(3) of the OIA.

Please note that this letter (with your personal details removed) and attached documents may be published on DOC's website.

Nāku noa, nā



Ben Reddiex
Director National Programmes
Department of Conservation
Te Papa Atawhai

Document Schedule

Item	Date	Document description	Decision
1	17 – 17 June 2025	Phase 1 – Prefeed 1 Map	Released in full
2	27 June 2025	Phase 1 – Prefeed 2 Map	Released in full
3	6-8 July 2025	Phase 1 – Toxin Map	Released in full
4	3-4 August 2025	Phase 2 – Prefeed Map	Released in full
5	21-22 August 2025	Phase 2 – Toxin Map	Release in full